

The Westbank Express...



Your
Monthly
Newsletter!



Liang Zhao Zhang, head Sushi chef at Sushi Q in Westbank, and Phil Soo, a wine consultant from Summerland, pose for a photo after enjoying a Japanese lunch and reminiscing about past Chinese New Years.

As Liang Zhang and Phil Soo lapsed into Cantonese while Phil nibbled on grilled eel perched on a seaweed-wrapped rice bed, we looked on in bewilderment and admired how both Liang and Phil had successfully mastered two languages. Liang Zhang, born in China and a Canadian resident for the past twelve years, and Phil Soo, born in Vancouver and a Summerland resident for the past five years shared some of their family experiences about Chinese New Years' celebrations. Phil and his family celebrate with a festive meal—a potluck—on what is traditionally called the Buddha Feast, the first day of the year—February 3rd. This year Phil is in charge of what might be considered Chop Suey. He plans to whip up a combination of mushrooms, tofu, mung bean noodles, bean curds, seaweed and some mysterious-sounding spices. Liang, on the other hand, will be working, preparing non-traditional sushi meals for his customers; however, Liang's family in China will be feasting with family and friends enjoying chicken, seafood, duck, pork, sweet cakes and sticky rice wrapped in meat-filled leaves. Phil and Liang will carry out tradition by passing on a red envelope to their children, nieces, nephews, and friends' children. The red envelopes represent good fortune and are filled with money or chocolates. Phil, born in the year of the Rooster, believes the traits match his personality—a debater, very meticulous and highly organized. Liang, born in the year of the Dragon, didn't share his beliefs about the sign characteristics but Dragons are known to be lively characters, ambitious, outgoing and willing to work long hours!

YEAR OF THE RABBIT



The Chinese Zodiac houses twelve signs named after twelve different animals. They are the rat, ox, tiger, rabbit, dragon, snake, horse, goat, monkey, rooster, dog, and pig. **This year, the year of the Rabbit;** Feb. 3, 2011 - Jan. 22, 2012, represents a year of diplomacy. The five different types of rabbit have strengthening or moderating influences on the sign. Born in 1951, 2011 are Metal Rabbits, born in 1963 is the Water Rabbit, born in 1915, 1975 are the Wood Rabbits, born in 1927, 1987 are the Fire Rabbits and born in 1939, 1999 are the Earth Rabbits.

Westbank First Nation

Administrative Office: 250-769-4999
Recreation Dept.: 250-768-7337

District of West Kelowna - February/March, 2011 Meetings

Feb 8-Council Meeting 1:15 pm
Feb 15-Comm. of the Whole 1:30 pm
Feb 22-Council Meeting 6:00 pm
Mar 8-Council Meeting 1:30 pm
Mar 15-Comm. of the Whole 1:30 pm
Mar 22-Council Meeting 6:00 pm



From the Kitchen Nook - Peggy's Asparagus Salad

Line a large platter with several leaves of lettuce; large-leafed lettuce like romaine is best. Prepare 15 to 20 asparagus spears and place on the platter as pictured here. Finely chop one red onion and one red pepper; slice olives and sprinkle all over asparagus. Then spread walnut pieces over entire platter. Drizzle on an oil and vinegar dressing and top with dried pears. Serve with shrimp-filled avocados, fresh rolls and a glass of white wine or grape juice.

George Fenton Remembers the Old Glenrosa School House *by Gordon H. Ficke*

"I've walked through that front door many times," declared George Fenton, a local Glenrosa pioneer who now lives in Westbank. He also admitted to spending 'time out' in the small cloakroom when he misbehaved in Miss Gorman's one-room classroom.

George was born in the late 1920s in Glenrosa and starting at age five he attended the one-room Glenrosa schoolhouse, built around 1909, for seven years. Helen Gorman was his teacher for all those years. As George explains, "In a one-room school the teacher taught the pupils from grade one to eight. After teaching each grade she would give each class an assignment. When the teacher was giving the other classes their assignment you would be carrying on with something you were not supposed to do." Miss Gorman was a very strict teacher, but a good teacher. "You got away with nothing," George admitted.

The men of the village cut firewood for the stove in the school that was used in the wintertime. George's father had the contract to light the stove every morning. When George was old enough, he took over that responsibility and arrived between 7:00 and 8:00 in the morning five days a week to light the stove, raise the flag, go over to Mrs. Hitchner next door to get a gallon of water (there was no running water in the school) and pour six or eight cups of water for the students. Each school day Miss Gorman would put two drops of iodine in each cup. The purpose of the iodine was to get rid of goiter. Iodine salt later replaced the drops.



The school day was from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Each day would commence with the singing of the national anthem followed by reciting The Lord's Prayer. Arithmetic, Grammar, Spelling, History, Geography and penmanship, learning how to write well, as well as learning basic manners were taught. There were two fifteen-minute recesses and one hour for lunch. Those students that brought a lunch shared their meal with less fortunate students that didn't have anything to eat.

The one-room classroom was illuminated with only the natural light coming in through the windows. There were no kerosene or coal oil lamps to aid in doing your schoolwork, especially on those short winter days. Sometimes during those winter afternoons it was just too dark to do your schoolwork and the teacher dismissed the children early. There was no assigned homework for the children to do.

There was one outdoor biffy for both girls and boys. "May I leave the room teacher?" was a common request. Occasionally during sunny warm days some students used that line as an excuse to get out of class and go outside for a while.

From the May 24th weekend until the end of the school year all the children shed their shoes and went barefoot. "I couldn't stand it," George admitted. "I hated to go barefoot. It bothered my feet and today I still don't like to even walk in the sand with bare feet."

Despite the poignant memories of his rebellious nature while attending the Glenrosa School, George has some wonderful memories too. Like his father, George liked to draw. Miss Gorman, also an able wildlife artist who enjoyed sketching birds, encouraged him in his drawing projects.

What was George's worst memory while going to school? His nemesis was grammar. "I couldn't spell cat," Fenton revealed. "My spelling was atrocious."

By 1942 the Glenrosa School had only five students. It was no longer economically feasible to keep the learning institution open. The school board made the decision to close the school at the end of the school year in June.

WHAT'S
HAPPENING IN
FEBRUARY/MARCH?

WESTBANK

Qigong Tai Chi

Tuesdays, 11:00 am

Healing meditation for a healthy, relaxed body, mind and spirit. Instructor Hajime Harold Naka. Classes held at the Westbank United Church Hall, 3672 Brown Rd. \$6.00 drop-in. For further information phone 250-762-5982.

Orion's Fish Bus

Feb. 19th & 20th by The Cherry Pit

70 peeled Tiger Prawns \$20 or 2 for \$35 or 3 for \$50--Sole, Snapper & Basa \$12.00 each or 3 for \$30. Stop by the Truck and join the email list to get tasty Seafood recipes and a free bonus every \$100.00.

Native Tacos

Feb. 16th 11:00 am - 1:30 pm

Celebrate the month of love with the Seniors at Pine Acres, 1902 Pheasant Lane. Luncheon includes taco, beverage and homemade dessert for \$5.00. Bring a neighbour or friend and join the Seniors for a delicious hot meal.

I. What part of the pickerel, when sauteed in butter, is similar to scallops?

12th Annual Pickerel Dinner

Mar. 12th & 13th, 2011

Tickets are \$15.00 each. Available at the Westbank Lions Community Centre, Westbank Home Hardware on Dobbin, Hymart on Old Okanagan Hwy., the Shannon Lake Convenience Store or any Lions member. Dinner will be served at the Lions Community Hall, 2466 Main St.

Valentines Dinner & Dance - RCL Branch 288

Feb. 11, 2011 - Dinner 5:00 - 7:00 pm

Hosted by the Westbank Legion Ladies Auxilliary. Enjoy an evening of dining and dancing with friends. \$8.00 each. Entertainment - the Legion's very own Jam Session Band. To be held at the Westbank Legion, 2525 Dobbin Rd.

St. Patrick's Day Dinner & Irish Dancers

March 18/11 5:00 pm

The Westbank Legion, 2525 Dobbin Rd. Call 250-768-4330 for more info.

PEACHLAND

Speaker Series

Feb. 15, 2011 - 1: 30 pm

Photographic Artist Chris Byrd will give a power point presentation on his trip through Egypt, Cairo, the Western Desert, the Nile and the Temples of Luxur, Philae and Abu Simbel. Admission by donation. Little School House, 4th Street. For more info. phone 250-767-0256.

SUMMERLAND

Cafe Noir - Fundraiser for the Arts Council

February 25, 2011 - 7:00 pm

Enjoy an evening in a French-style cafe setting at the Summerland Art Gallery. Entertainment for the evening and a variety of pastries and other sweet baking will be served along with speciality coffee in a hand-crafted mug to take home. \$40.00 per person.

Contact 250-494-4494 for further information.

2. What beer has the same name as a BC fish?

PENTICTON

Barney Bentall & his Band The Legendary Hearts

Feb. 5, 2011 - 8:00 pm

Dream Cafe

Country, folk, and roots sound. Canadian music veteran who recently released the CD 'The Inside Passage.' \$22.00 per person. For more information go to www.thedreamcafe.ca

The Reptile Guy Feb. 4 - 6, 2011

Featuring a variety of snakes, turtles and iguanas. Have your photo taken with a 7-foot boa, a 4-foot lizard or a 30 lb. tortoise. At the Cherry Lane Mall, Centre Court in Penticton. Contact the Summerland Chamber at 250-494-2686 for further information.

LOOKING
AHEAD!

SALMON ARM

1st Annual Sturgis North Motorcycle Rally/Music Festival/Outdoor Trade Show: July 12 - 17, 2011

Feature bands: Nazareth, Jerry Doucette, Doug & the Slugs, Harlequin, Headpins, Helix, Streeheart, Kick Axe, Lee Aaron, Powder Blues and Prism. Check further on www.sturgisnorth.com.

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WESTBANK

Westbank Outdoor Market

July 9 - Sept. 17, 2011

For further information contact Betty Hersey at 250-768-7109 or email bhersey@shaw.ca

Westbank Lions Electric Scooter Draw

July 2, 2011 - Early Bird draws Feb. 14th and Mar. 17th.

Tickets now available for \$1.00 each at the Westbank Lions Community Centre, any Lions Club member or at the mobile ticket booth around various locations in the community. \$200.00 cash prize for the Early bird draws. For further info. phone 250-768-2322.



Business Section

John C Whittall Photographs
Birds, Beasts, Blooms and Bugs



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Mon - Sat: 9-6 Sun: 11-4
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1. The Cheeks; 2. Kokanee